

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multimedia content delivery system, comprising:
 - a content provider having a plurality of multimedia files therein;
 - a first integrated circuit card interface for receipt of a host integrated circuit card containing first authorization information;
 - a second integrated circuit card interface for receipt of a user integrated circuit card containing second authorization information;
 - an input device for selecting a multimedia file from the plurality of multimedia files;
 - an output device for providing the content of a selected multimedia file;
 - a control unit responsive to insertion into said second integrated circuit card interface of a user interface card containing second authorization information compatible with first authorization information contained in a host integrated circuit card inserted in said first integrated circuit card interface, for actuating said output device to provide the content of a multimedia file selected by said input device.
2. A multimedia content delivery system, as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a multimedia terminal having said content provider, said first integrated circuit card interface, and said control unit therein enclosed therein.
3. A multimedia content delivery system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said output device comprises an audio output device.
4. A multimedia content delivery system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said output device comprises a video output device.

5. A multimedia content delivery system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said output device comprises a communication link permitting downloading of the selected multimedia file in electronic form.

6. A multimedia content delivery system, as claimed in claim 5, wherein said communication link is a wireless communication link.

7. A multimedia content delivery system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said content provider, said input device, said output device, and said control unit comprise a laptop computer.

8. A multimedia content delivery system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said content provider, said input device, said output device, and said control unit comprise a wireless personal terminal.

9. A multimedia content delivery system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said content provider comprises a server.

10. A multimedia content delivery system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said content provider further comprises a mainframe computer coupled to said server.

11. A multimedia content delivery system, as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a server connected to said content provider.

12. A multimedia content delivery system, as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a mainframe computer connected to said server.

13. A multimedia content delivery system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said multimedia files comprise audio media.

14. A multimedia content delivery system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said multimedia files comprise video media.

15. A multimedia content delivery system, as claimed in claim 14, wherein said video media comprises text.

16. A multimedia content delivery system, as claimed in claim 15, wherein said text comprises electronic books.

17. A multimedia content delivery system, as claimed in claim 15, wherein said text comprises newspapers.

18. A multimedia content delivery system, as claimed in claim 14, wherein said video media comprises games.

19. A process for providing multimedia content, comprising the steps of:

- (a) storing a multimedia file, having multimedia content, in a storage unit;
- (b) associating first authorization information with the multimedia file;
- (c) receiving a user integrated circuit card containing second authorization information compatible with the first authorization information;
- (d) in response to step (c), providing the content of the multimedia file to an output device.

20. A process as claimed in claim 19, wherein step (b) comprises receiving a host integrated circuit card containing the first authorization information.

21. A process as claimed in claim 19, wherein step (d) comprises providing the content of the multimedia file to an audio output device.

22. A process as claimed in claim 19, wherein step (d) comprises providing the content of the multimedia file to a video output device.

23. A process as claimed in claim 19, wherein step (d) comprises providing the content of the multimedia file in electronic form to an output link.

24. A process for providing multimedia content, comprising the steps of:

- (a) storing a plurality of multimedia files, each having multimedia content, in a storage unit;

- (b) associating first authorization information with each of the multimedia files;
- (c) receiving a user integrated circuit card containing second authorization information compatible with the first authorization information of at least one of the multimedia files;
- (d) in response to step (c), providing the content of the at least one multimedia file to an output device.

25. A process as claimed in claim 24, wherein step (b) comprises receiving a host integrated circuit card containing the first authorization information.

26. A process as claimed in claim 24, wherein step (d) comprises providing the content of the at least one multimedia file to an audio output device.

27. A process as claimed in claim 24, wherein step (d) comprises providing the content of the at least one multimedia file to a video output device.

28. A process as claimed in claim 24, wherein step (d) comprises providing the content of the at least one multimedia file in electronic form to an output link.

29. A method in distributing electronic content to a terminal device, comprising the steps of:

- (a) storing in a memory module tailoring information defining electronic content that is transferable to the terminal device, the memory module being separate from and releasably attachable to the terminal device,

(b) attaching the memory module to the terminal device,
(c) reading the tailoring information from the memory module into the terminal device, and
(d) transferring to the terminal device electronic content selected according to the tailoring information read from the memory module.

30. A method according to claim 29, wherein:

the method further comprises before step (d) the additional step of transmitting the tailoring information from the terminal device to a second device over a radio frequency link;
and

step (d) comprises transferring the electronic content to the terminal device over the radio frequency link.

31. A method according to claim 30, wherein the radio frequency link is a short range communication radio frequency link, and the second device is an access point of a short range communication system.

32. A method according to claim 31, wherein:

the method further comprises bringing the terminal device into the coverage area of the access point, sending an inquiry from the access point to the terminal device, sending from the terminal device a response to the inquiry, and transmitting the tailoring information to the access point, and

step (d) comprises transferring the electronic content from the access point to the terminal device according to the tailoring information.

33. A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the method further comprises automatically transferring new electronic content from the access point to the terminal device, the new electronic content fulfilling the tailoring information requirements and being determined to not having been previously transferred to the terminal device.

34. A method as claimed in claim 31, further comprising before step (d) the further step of transmitting a prepaid amount of money electronically from the terminal device to the access point.

35. A method as claimed in claim 34, further comprising:
storing a money balance electronically in the memory module, and
deducting the electronically transmitted amount of money from the money balance in the memory module before the step of transmitting the prepaid amount of money from the terminal device to the access point.

36. A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein:
the method comprises incorporating a first transceiver in the access point for communicating in a first communication path with the terminal device over the short range radio frequency link, and incorporating a second transceiver in the access point for communicating in a second communication path with the terminal device over the short range radio frequency link,

step (a) includes using the first transceiver to receive the tailoring information from

the terminal device, and transferring the tailoring information received by the first transceiver to the second transceiver, and

step (d) comprises transferring the electronic content to the terminal device using the second transceiver.

37. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the tailoring information includes time dependent subscription period information defining a time period within which electronic content may be transferred to the terminal device.

38. A method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the electronic content includes copies of a periodically published item.

39. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the memory module comprises an integrated circuit card.

40. A method as claimed in claim 39, wherein step (d) comprises:
transferring the serial number of the IC card to an access point,
checking the validity of the IC card based on the serial number, and in response to a determination that the IC card is valid, transferring the electronic content to the terminal device.

41. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the electronic content comprises electronic goods or services.

42. A method as claimed in claim 41, wherein the electronic content is at least one content selected from the group consisting of movies, music, games, electronic magazines, periodicals, newspapers, and tv-news.

43. A method as claimed in claim 41, wherein the electronic content includes a series of movies.

44. A system for distributing electronic content, comprising
a network connection usable as a transfer medium for transferring electronic content,
a network element for transferring selected electronic content over the network connection according to predetermined tailoring information, the tailoring information defining the selected electronic content to be transferred from the network element,
a terminal device for receiving electronic content over the network connection,
a memory module for storing the tailoring information, the memory module being separate from the terminal device, and
attaching means for attaching the memory module to the terminal device, wherein:
the terminal device includes means to read the tailoring information from the memory module and to transmit the tailoring information to the network element over the network connection, and
the network element is adapted to transfer electronic content to the terminal device over the network connection according to the tailoring information.

45. A memory module for storing information and for use with a terminal device, the

memory module comprising:

a storage medium for storing tailoring information relating to specific electronic content that the memory module authorizes to be transferrable to the terminal device, and
an interface for mechanically and electrically coupling the memory module to the terminal device, the memory module being releasably attachable by the interface to the terminal device to bring the memory module into mechanical and electrical contact with the terminal device.

46. A memory module as claimed in claim 45, wherein the memory module is an IC card.

47. A memory module as claimed in claim 45, wherein the memory module comprises a storage medium for electronically storing a monetary amount to be used as payment for the specific electronic content.

48. A terminal device comprising:

a storage device for storing tailoring information relating to specific electronic content,

an interface for mechanically and electrically coupling the storage device to the terminal device, the interface allowing releasable attachment of the storage device to the terminal device to bring the storage device into mechanical and electrical contact with the terminal device,

means for reading the tailoring information from the storage device into the terminal device when the storage device is mechanically and electrically connected to the terminal

device by the interface, the tailoring information defining specific electronic content that the storage device authorizes as being transferrable to the terminal device, and

means for transmitting the tailoring information by wireless communication in order to receive electronic content at the terminal device according to the tailoring information.